



राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

केन्द्रिय कार्यालय Central Office
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Press Note

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Forsaken Landmine Victims Knock the Door of NHRC

Lalitpur: Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay has said that the victims of landmine explosions after the Comprehensive Peace Accord ought to be provided with relief packages by the State.

Talking to the representatives of the Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal (BLCN) during their visit to the Commission, the Chairperson said that the Commission was seriously concerned over reports claiming impartiality practiced in providing relief.

'It is the state obligation to provide relief to the citizens who have fallen the victims of landmine explosions even after the peace process,' the Chairperson urged.

On the occasion, Member Ram Nagina Singh raised his concern over the activities carried out by the Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal (BLCN).

Speaking at the program, Member Gauri Pradhan said that the Commission has so far recommended that the Government provide relief packages and reparation to the victims of 17 incidents of landmine explosion including the incident of Madi of Chitwan district that claimed 38 lives and injured 72.

'We don't even have the actual data of those killed or injured by landmines,' said Pradhan. 'We have demanded the figures from the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction.'

On the occasion, handing over a memorandum to NHRC Chairperson Upadhyay, BLCN Coordinator Ms Purna Shova Chitrakar, said that even the responsible government bodies had been ignoring landmine-related issues.

The memorandum demands that the government take necessary action towards addressing the problems of landmine victims at the earliest. The memorandum also emphasizes that the government publicize the factual details pertaining to the relief provided to the victims of landmine blasts so far.

"Government bodies in various districts have been practicing undue partiality while providing relief to victims," victim Krishna Bahadur Ghising said, adding that proper monitoring mechanisms should be set up separately to oversee problems related to landmine victims.

Victim Ghising also demanded that, at least, the victim or one member of the victim's family be provided with suitable employment from the side of the state. Another victim Sunita Ghale narrated the story of her futile visits to the concerned government authorities for the relief.

The Commission had recommended that the government ratify the International Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Treaty) way back in 2010.

Secretary

Bishal Khanal